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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Erdogan Gives Bush Administration Warm Messages - Milliyet  
6/11

Erdogan: A New Era in Turkey-US Ties - Aksam 6/12

Erdogan: Iraq Becoming a Training Field for Terrorists -  
Milliyet 6/12

Rice: EU Should Keep Word, Begin Entry Talks With Turkey -  
Milliyet 6/12

US 'Wanted' List for 150 PKK Members - Sabah 6/11

Nicosia Rejects Direct Trade With northern Cyprus - Hurriyet

The Observer: Turks Have No Chance of Joining EU - Milliyet

Bloody Day in Iran: 9 Killed - Sabah

Nothing New on the Iraq Front: 90 Killed - Milliyet 6/12

Another Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq - Sabah 6/12

G-8 to 'Erase' 40 Billion USD Debt of Poor Countries -

Milliyet 6/12

OPINION MAKERS

New York Times: Turks, Angry With EU, Turn to US - Zaman  
6/12

Turkey to Sign EU Cyprus Protocol - Cumhuriyet

Annan Looking for Ways to Facilitate Cyprus Solution -  
Radikal 6/12

Merkel: EU Not Ready for Turkey - Cumhuriyet 6/12

Barzani Becomes President of Kurdish Region - Zaman

Osman Ocalan Quits Active Politics - Yeni Safak

Bush: Syria Has a 'Death List' for Lebanon - Yeni Safak 6/12

Lebanese Christians Win Third Round of Elections - Yeni  
Safak

Bombs Shake Iran on Eve of Presidential Polls - Radikal

Belgrade Bargains With The Hague to Surrender Mladic -  
Cumhuriyet 6/12

BRIEFING

Erdogan Returns From US: In an assessment of his visit last week to the United States, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told Turkish columnists on his return flight to Ankara that anti-Americanism in Turkey is not as high as some have said. The recent visit to northern Cyprus made a positive impact in Turkey. If Americans take action against the PKK, the atmosphere will be further improved,' Erdogan said. US-Turkey ties are 'multi-dimensional and well tested,' according to Erdogan, and they are 'strengthened' every day with a 'vision for the future.' On Syria, Erdogan noted that Ankara and Damascus have been enemies for 40 years. 'We have turned a new page in bilateral relations with Syria. Turkey will assist any democratic step taken in Syria,' he noted. Erdogan also voiced hope that the 'positive energy' of his visit to the United States would bring 'concrete cooperation,' which would yield positive results for both countries.

Before leaving for Turkey, Erdogan attended a dinner hosted by Ahmet Ertegun, a Turkish businessman living in the US. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and several American politicians, journalists, and artists attended the dinner. Earlier on Friday, Erdogan met with the editorial board of the New York Times (NYT) where he faced criticism regarding the postponement of a conference planned by the Bosphorus University in Istanbul to debate the official Turkish position regarding claims of genocide against Armenians by the Ottomans in 1915-17. Erdogan said that Minister Cicek's statements criticizing the conference represented his personal views, and not those of the Turkish government: 'I support these kinds of conferences even though I do not agree with the views that were to be expressed there,' Erdogan said. He invited the NYT editors to come to Turkey to look at the official archives on the issue. Erdogan also

voiced his displeasure over the paper's refusal to publish an advertisement by 36 Turkish NGOs rejecting charges of the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman forces. Editors said the decision was made by the NYT advertisement section, and they promised to look into the advertisement and inform the Turks about the results of their inquiry.

Saturday papers report Erdogan's remarks at a meeting of the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, which were seen by the Turkish press as messages aimed at 'pleasing' the US. 'Disagreements between Turkey and the United States are transitory, but our ties are strong enough to overcome these differences,' Erdogan said. Erdogan noted that the leadership of a global power such as the US is necessary to handle international problems like terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and demographic imbalances.

Saturday's "Cumhuriyet" claims that Washington was not satisfied by Erdogan's messages highlighting the importance of Turkey's ties with the US. The paper reports US officials as saying that the Erdogan government is expected to demonstrate leadership in boosting strategic cooperation with the US. While Erdogan voiced support for the US Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI), he also criticized some aspects of it and defended Turkey's close ties with Syria, the paper claims. Turkey's policies with regard to Iran also remain a source of anxiety for US, according to "Cumhuriyet."

**Erdogan Meets Anti-Defamation League:** The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) gave Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan a medal of valor to honor Turkish diplomats who saved Jews from Nazi Germany's concentration camps during World War II, weekend papers report. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, State Minister Ali Babacan, and Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul joined Erdogan at the breakfast with ADL representatives in New York on Friday. 'The genocide committed against the Jews is the most unbelievable crime committed in human the history. Millions of Jews became the victims of this crime,' Erdogan said, adding that 'anti-Semitism is a perversion which led to a massacre. Genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, anti-Islamism, anti-Christianity, xenophobia and terrorism are different faces of the same wickedness. If we understand the danger of these calamities and fight against them effectively, our children will live in a better world.' Erdogan said that anti-Semitism has not been a part of Turkish culture. 'Islam is a religion which sees people as equals regardless of whether they are Jewish, Christian, or Muslim,' he emphasized. Erdogan reminded that the Ottomans had sheltered Jewish people 500 years ago. 'Jewish people living in Turkey are respected members of our nation. We have friendly ties with the Jewish people in the US, and they always have supported Turkey in difficult days. We continue to trust your friendship and you should continue trusting our friendship,' Erdogan stressed. He also noted that Turkey is determined to further deepen its partnership with the US: 'This partnership is an indispensable common initiative that serves honorable aims. Turkey and the US want to launch efforts to achieve a democratic peace by stressing shared values and common goals.'

**Bush Makes Economic Demands From Turkey:** During his meeting with Prime Minister Erdogan, President Bush asked Prime Minister Erdogan to address the difficulties faced by US firms active in Turkey, particularly lawsuits against the agribusiness giant Cargill Inc., Monday's "Cumhuriyet" reports. Bush responded to Erdogan's request for help with US investments in Turkey by saying that US companies' investment decisions are made according to the respect shown to business contracts signed by foreign investors. "Cumhuriyet" believes the remarks reflect disappointment with the problems faced by Cargill and Motorola in Turkey. Turkey is expected to work out lasting legal solutions to these problems, sources said. Erdogan's trip to the US failed to make a breakthrough in economic relations between the two countries, "Cumhuriyet" comments.

**Turkey Agrees to Buy 12 Sikorsky Helicopters:** Turkey agreed with the Sikorsky firm to purchase 12 helicopters worth 389 million USD, weekend papers report. Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul told reporters that Turkey ranked second, after the US military, in the list of buyers from Sikorsky, with 125 helicopters purchased since 1985. Gonul noted that the helicopters will be delivered to Turkey within 3-4 years.

**US Issues a 'Wanted List' for PKK Members in Iraq:** The United States ordered two months ago its units in Iraq to capture 150 PKK members, including Osman Ocalan, but no action has been taken to that end, weekend papers report. Reports claim that the order for the capture of PKK members was issued shortly after Iraqi Prime Minister Jafari's visit to Turkey. The US list includes former PKK leaders who later founded the Patriotic Democratic Party (PWD) -- Osman Ocalan, Faysal Dunlayici, Hidir Tas -- and those who are known to be on Kandil Mountain: Cemil Bayik, Murat Karayilan, Ali Haydar Kaytan and Hidir Yalcin.

**PKK Militants Continue Infiltration into Turkey:** Turkish security forces continue operations against PKK groups on the Iran-Iraq border, Saturday's "Cumhuriyet" reports. The PKK has intensified its activities by sending new groups into Turkey, particularly via Iran. Military sources said that two PKK groups of 20 specially-trained militants infiltrated into Hatay, Sivas, and Erzincan provinces as well as the Black Sea region. Military sources estimate the number of PKK militants in Turkey as 3,000, and those in the Kandil Mountains as 4,000. Security officials said ten PKK bombers have been captured in Istanbul with a total of 30 kg of explosives last month, and that new militant groups continue to infiltrate into Turkey to carry out bomb attacks in major Turkish cities.

**Erdogan to Attend Arab Summit in Lebanon:** Prime Minister Erdogan is to travel to Beirut June 15-17 to attend the Arab Economic Forum meetings in the Lebanese capital, Sunday papers report. At the forum, Erdogan is expected to voice support for the US Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative in line with the 'soft' messages he issued during his visit to the United States.

**Bar Associations Warn About New Turkish Penal Code:** Bar associations of 13 Turkish provinces issued a joint statement warning the nation against the dangers caused by changes made in Turkey's draft penal code, Sunday papers report. The statement said that the changes promote the establishment and operation of illegal educational institutions. 'If the draft becomes law,' the statement said, 'the way will be opened to separatist terrorist organizations, missionary activities, and religious orders (tarikats) seeking a state-based on religion in Turkey.'

**Turkish-Greek Natural Gas Pipeline:** The prime ministers of Turkey and Greece are to join groundbreaking ceremonies for the Turkish-Greek natural gas pipeline project on July 3, Sunday papers report. The project, which is to be completed in 15 months, will carry natural gas to European countries through Greece.

**Businessmen Close to AKP on the Rise:** Businessmen close to the ruling AK Party (AKP) have started expanding their influence in Turkey's business world by taking over the chairmanships of influential organizations such as the Chamber of Trade and Chamber of Industry in Istanbul, Monday's "Sabah" reports. Most of these businessmen own small and medium-scale enterprises, and although their capital is limited, the influence they have gained is enormous, according to "Sabah." Monday's "Aksam" carries a report about the activities of Islamic holding companies in Turkey. According to the report, which has been submitted to the parliament, Islamic business groups have collected some 4 billion Euro from shareholders with promises to pay generous profit shares. Most of these holding companies subsequently went bankrupt.

**Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq:** A Turkish truck driver was killed by unidentified attackers in Ishaki, north of Baghdad, Sunday papers report. The identity of the driver was not immediately known.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Turkey

"The US-AKP Dance"  
Yasemin Congar wrote from Washington in the mainstream "Milliyet" (6/13): "The dance between the US administration and the AKP is certainly not a tango, because we can't really talk about common emotion or shared passion between the two. Yet after the White House meeting, it seems that both sides are determined to continue dancing even though they may occasionally step on each other's toes. This means the Bush administration does not have any intention of leaning toward a different partner in Turkey and distancing itself from the ruling AKP. . Prior to the White House meeting, PM Erdogan was welcomed to Washington by Undersecretary Zoellick's negative remarks on the bilateral relationship. Zoellick stressed the disappointment, concern, and confusion in bilateral relations, and he suggested ways to overcome these difficulties. On the issue of anti-Americanism, Washington is not satisfied with Erdogan's explanation. Although Erdogan finally admitted there is anti-Americanism in Turkey, he put the blame on figures in the opposition, the media, and 'marginal groups.' Washington wants to see the AKP actively engaged in countering anti-Americanism in every possible platform, and to speak louder to defend the value of Turkey's friendship with the US. During the White House meeting, PM Erdogan expressed support for the BMENAI and did not mention some of his former reservations about the project. But this time, Washington wants to see deeds rather than words. The Bush administration is also very impatient about certain differences between the two capitals on the fight against terrorism. Syria is certainly the most notable example of

these differences. The White House countered Turkey's argument on the need to 'establishment close relations' with Damascus to 'encourage reform' by pointing out that such an approach is out of step with US policy and the approach of the rest of the world. For Washington, Damascus constitutes a direct threat against the lives of US soldiers in Iraq, and a threat to the process of democratization in Lebanon. Washington is working on several options regarding Syria, including diplomatic and economic isolation and 'hot pursuit' of insurgents from Iraq to Syria. It looks like the Syria issue will soon become a litmus test for the strategic relationship between Turkey and the US."

"Turkish Foreign Policy"

Yilmaz Oztuna observed in the conservative-mass appeal "Turkiye" (6/13): "During his visit to Washington, Prime Minister Erdogan did not convey a positive message to President Bush on the Syria issue. President Bush was expecting to hear a promise more in line with the US approach. On the contrary, Erdogan presented Bush with an offer in complete contradiction to Washington's Syria policies. For its part, Turkey has become exceptionally sensitive about the PKK issue. As I wrote in my previous columns, the US should have taken concrete steps against the PKK if it was expecting to hear something different on Syria. If the US had surprised Turkey by eliminating the PKK in Northern Iraq, would the Turkish government have acted as a partner to the US on its Syria policy? The answer to this question is uncertain. But it seems clear that issues beyond Syria and Iran are currently outside of Washington's field of vision."

MOORE